PRESS RELEASE

Patterson opposes boxing promotion at Alamo Plaza

Site of historic battleground is no place for fight promotion

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE July 01, 2013

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AUSTIN — A planned boxing promotion at Alamo Plaza Monday desecrates the Shrine of Texas Liberty, Texas Land Commissioner Jerry Patterson said.

"This would not happen at Gettysburg. No one would even imagine holding such an event at the USS Arizona in Pearl Harbor," Patterson said. "Alamo Plaza is where Bowie and Travis fell. It should be treated as the hallowed ground that it is."

The City of San Antonio controls Alamo Plaza and Mayor Julian Castro is scheduled to speak at the press conference. Patterson said it is time that San Antonio changes how it thinks about the Alamo.

"Alamo Plaza no place to promote a Las Vegas title fight. Alamo Plaza is the Alamo," Patterson said. "It is a battlefield where brave men died to secure our liberty and should be treated as such."

World welterweight titleholder Floyd Mayweather Jr. and junior middleweight champion Saul "Canelo" Alvarez are expected to appear before thousands at Alamo Plaza from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Monday. The appearance is part of an eleven city press tour by Golden Boy Productions and Mayweather Promotions to promote a Sept. 14 title fight.

Spectacles like Monday's planned boxing promotion drove the Legislature to recently consider creating a special historic district to protect Alamo Plaza.

Patterson said additional Alamo Rangers will be on duty to watch over the Alamo itself during the fight promotion to protect the Shrine from the expected throng of fight fans who may not show proper respect for the historic mission. "Last month it was Kanye West, this month it's Vegas fight promoters," Patterson said. "The Alamo is under a constant siege of people who just don't appreciate the significance of the site."

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